

**MINUTES**  
**INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

January 7, 2009

Department of Education  
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room  
151 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Suellen Reed, David Shane, James Edwards, Todd Huston, Vicki Snyder, Steve Gabet, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell and Jo Blacketer were present. Board members Dr. Edward Eiler, Daniel Elsener, and Mike Pettibone were not present.

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Edwards moved for approval of the minutes as corrected. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Reed thanked everyone who attended the Teacher of the Year Banquet and announced that the 2009 session of the General Assembly has convened.

**IV. Member Comments and Reports from Board Member Representatives to Other Groups**

**V. Committee Reports**

- A. Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator reported on Strategic Planning. The National Governors Association will hold a meeting related to the teacher quality project. Several persons from Indiana will attend. Assessment implementation is ongoing and will be discussed by Wes Bruce.

Dr. Robert Marra, Assistant Superintendent, reported that work continues on the One Plan and the education portal (combination of both smartDESKTOP and ICAN). Dr. Marra said the portal will provide teachers with information on exactly where their students are with the standards, from all the different assessments, and see where they are on their learning curve. Dr. Marra said the One Plan will also make it easier for schools to submit data and address their school plans without the fragmentation of multiple plans.

Dr. Marra gave Board members a copy of an LEA Success Plan, a model Delaware is using to combine all plans.

- B. Mr. Zaring reported on the Regulatory Rule Review Committee and said the meeting schedule for January 6 was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Dr. Marra discussed the special education rule and said more revisions need to be made due to some federal changes regarding parental consent and hearing rights. Dr. Marra gave Board members a copy of Timeline for Revision to Article 7. Dr. Marra discussed the student services rule and response to intervention, saying this goes along with the One Plan. A guidance document will be sent out by March.

Mr. Zaring discussed a draft to remove the requirement regarding GED testing that currently requires a waiting period for a GED applicant whose test scores were incomplete. Mr. Zaring also said other technical amendments in other rules need to be made and these could all be put together as a package for committee consideration. Mr. Zaring said another rule to look at is the Core 40 waiver to the graduation examination requirement that goes away on July 1, 2010.

Mr. Zaring said the education service center rule provides lots of opportunities to make changes, and committee members would like to talk to the service centers as well as their customers.

Work will continue with the committee on these rules. As Board members review these rules, they are asked to relay comments or suggestions to committee members.

Mr. Zaring gave Board members a copy of a summary of findings and recommendations from the Interim Study Committee on Education Matters. Mr. Zaring said the recommendation was made that the General Assembly adopt a requirement for the State Board to adopt a standardized school counselor's job description.

Mr. Shane said the minutes from the December State Board meeting did not fully capture the conversation on textbooks, computers, and technology. Mr. Shane asked to revisit this matter as he and Mr. Zaring are still in the process of writing up a report to send out, stating the Board considers computers to be textbooks; the Board encourages experimentation and the use of technology but not mandating it; and there are some caveats such as free and reduced lunches that need to go into the communication. Mr. Shane said he wanted to make sure that, after a month of thinking about it, that no one had changed anything or had any concerns about it. If not, he will proceed. It was the consensus to proceed.

- C. Terry Spradlin and Nathan Burroughs, Center for Evaluation and Education Policy (CEEP), discussed the 2008 Public Opinion Survey on K-12 Education in Indiana. Mr. Spradlin said when the benchmark survey was completed in 2003, no other comprehensive, nonpartisan survey of public opinion on Indiana education issues had been conducted in recent memory. The results of the sixth annual public opinion survey find the public ranks education as its top policy issue. The survey conducted in November gauged the attitudes and perceptions of a representative sample of Hoosiers on key educational issues. For the first time, respondents were asked to rate the importance of eight major policy issues. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the most important, a total of 90 percent rated K-12 education at 8, 9, or 10.

Mr. Spradlin said Hoosiers indicated they are a little more positive generally about Indiana's school quality, with 54 percent indicating public schools are excellent or good, up from 50 percent in 2007. Respondents view schools locally even more favorable, with 63 percent indicating their schools are excellent or good. Attitudes and perceptions about Indiana teachers also jumped back to long-term trend numbers after a decline in 2007. A total of

70 percent of Hoosiers rated teachers as excellent or good in 2008, compared to 62 percent in 2007.

The entire report is available at <http://ceep.indiana.edu/projects/PDF/2008POS.pdf>.

Mr. Spradlin concluded his report by thanking Dr. Reed for her 16 years of public service as Superintendent of Public Instruction and said it was an honor working as the legislative policy analyst from 1995 – 2004.

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The Board recessed at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened at 10:53 a.m.  
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## **VI. Discussion**

- A. Wesley Bruce, Assistant Superintendent, discussed accountability and assessment. The Department will produce preliminary AYP and PL 221 results and send out the links to schools in mid to late January. With the 30 day appeal process, the Department is looking at being able to be final in late February. Once the AYP is final, PL 221 can follow, and those announcements will be made in March.

Mr. Bruce said the Department submitted an accountability workbook amendment to the US DOE prior to the holidays. No response has yet been received.

Pretest workshops will be held soon to make sure schools understand the changes for spring testing, which will be held March 2 – 11 for open ended items. In late April and early May, the Department will administer the multiple choice items. Testing materials will start arriving at schools in February.

Mr. Bruce said a big change for schools will be the six week gap between tests and the fact that we must have the student test number on every document. If not, we have the potential of significantly delaying the results for many students.

Mr. Bruce discussed an at-risk index that was created for incoming ninth graders and has been very well received by schools. Based on the number of requests the Department is looking at producing a middle school at-risk index. Mr. Bruce gave Board members the proposed index.

Mr. Zaring discussed new Title I regulations and said the department now has received guidance on the graduation rate. We will not be involved in a transition rate. The Department will have to set a goal and define significant progress towards the goal for purposes of AYP.

- B. Mr. Zaring discussed legislation and said Board members should have received the Senate bill list. The House bill list will be out soon and will be sent to the Board. More specific information on education bills will be sent to the Board as it is received.
- C. Mr. Zaring discussed the latest draft of the school construction guidelines and said it is structurally complete, readers are looking at it now, and we are at the point where we need critical comments. Mr. Shane said he felt that the document is still way off the mark regarding cost effectiveness of construction. Mr. Shane also said he did not see any evidence, in the document or process, that people actually building schools had a say and were able to weigh in. He thinks the document needs to go back through the process for comments from people who actually build the buildings. Mr. Zaring said this will be addressed.

**VII. Public Comments**

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of appointment of a hearing examiner under IC 20-23-9-15 for the Amended Governing Body Selection Plan, Board of School Trustees, Whitko Community Schools. [Agenda item VIII, A]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VIII, B]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School amendment to current petition from Trinity Christian School, Indianapolis. [Agenda item X, B]

- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School petition from the Covenant Christian School, Mishawaka. [Agenda item X, C]
- E. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Advances from the Common School Fund for Charter Schools. [Agenda item X, D]

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mr. Huston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Action**

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of the 2009 Summer School Program.

Mr. Huston moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. Board Operations**

Mr. Zaring read the following statement from Dr. Eiler, who asked that it be entered into the record, "Dr. Reed, it has been a privilege to serve with you on the State Board of Education. At the end of the day each of us in public education looks in the mirror and asks ourselves, 'did I make a difference, and did what I tried to do matter?' Dr. Reed, I believe when you look in the mirror the answer to those questions are a resounding YES. You have served the citizens of Indiana with distinction, but more importantly to us in the service of children you have been an advocate for children, a friend to teachers, and a mentor for educational leaders. You will be missed. Thank you. May you continue to find what you have left behind. Best Wishes."

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Mr. Huston moved for adjournment. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.